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GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS 1
$2.95 US
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GODZILLA
KING OF THE MONSTERS
PREHISTORIC TERROR UNLEASHED!
A CITY IN RUINS!
HAS MANKIND MET IT'S MATCH?
DIRECT SALES
00111

GODZILLA™

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OUTSIDE, THE STORM THUNDERS ITS RAGE...
...TONGUES ITS LIGHTNING AT THE TOWERS OF STEEL AND GLASS...
...SPENDS ITS FULL FORCE UPON THE CITY...
...YET THE TOWERS STAND.
THE STORM IS BUT AN ECHO OF THE FURY THIS CITY HAS SEEN.
SAFE AND WARM WITHIN MY TOWER--
...SURROUNDED BY THE COMFORTS OF A MODERN WORLD...
...I HEAR THAT ECHO--
--AND I TREMBLE LIKE A FRIGHTENED CHILD.
THE SQUALL MAY PASS BY MORNING...
...BUT THE MEMORY OF THAT DAY NEVER SHALL.
THE MEMORY OF THE DAY THE TOWERS FELL...

...THE DAY THE WORLD... MY WORLD, CHANGED FOREVER...
...THE DAY ME AWOKE...
GODZILLA
KING OF THE MONSTERS
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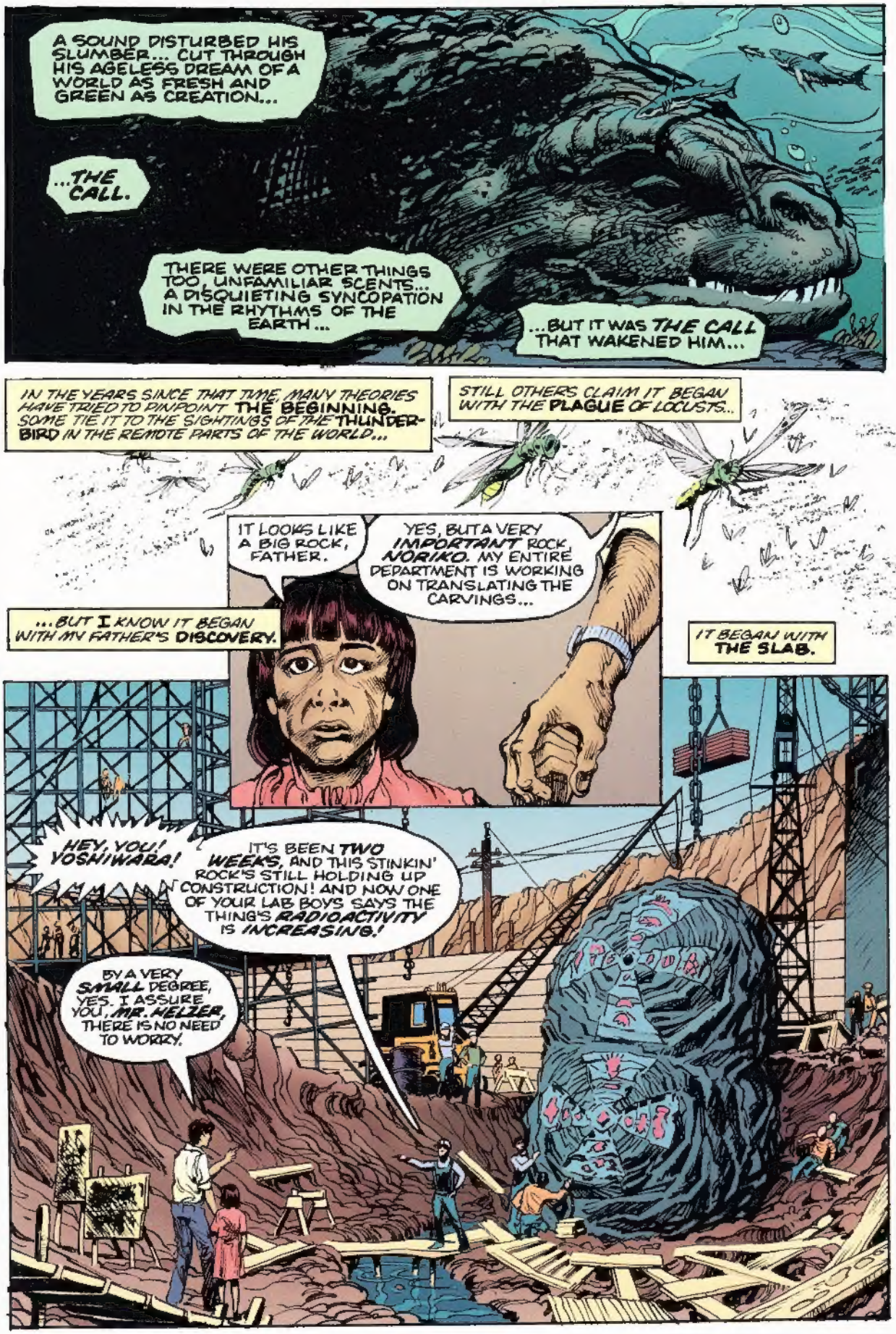

A SOUND DISTURBED HIS SLUMBER... CUT THROUGH HIS AGELESS DREAM OF A WORLD AS FRESH AND GREEN AS CREATION...
...THE CALL.
THERE WERE OTHER THINGS TOO, UNFAMILIAR SCENTS... A DISQUIETING SYNCOPATION IN THE RHYTHMS OF THE EARTH...
...BUT IT WAS THE CALL THAT WAKENED HIM...
IN THE YEARS SINCE THAT TIME, MANY THEORIES HAVE TRIED TO PINPOINT THE BEGINNING. SOME TIE IT TO THE SIGHTINGS OF THE THUNDER-BIRD IN THE REMOTE PARTS OF THE WORLD...
STILL OTHERS CLAIM IT BEGAN WITH THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS...
IT LOOKS LIKE A BIG ROCK, FATHER.
YES, BUT A VERY IMPORTANT ROCK, NORIKO. MY ENTIRE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON TRANSLATING THE CARVINGS...
...BUT I KNOW IT BEGAN WITH MY FATHER'S DISCOVERY.
IT BEGAN WITH THE SLAB.
HEY, YOU! YOSHIWARA!
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS, AND THIS STINKIN' ROCK'S STILL HOLDING UP CONSTRUCTION! AND NOW ONE OF YOUR LAB BOYS SAYS THE THING'S RADIOACTIVITY IS INCREASING!
BY A VERY SMALL DEGREE, YES. I ASSURE YOU, MR. HELZER, THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.

WAIT THERE, NORIKO
I TOLD YOUR BOSSES AT THE UNIVERSITY I'D GIVE YOU A WEEK FOR AN ON-SITE EXAMINATION BEFORE WE MOVED THE SLAB--
--BUT NOBODY SAID NOTHIN' ABOUT THIS "RADIOACTIVE" BUSINESS!
PLEASE, MR. HELZER, THESE THINGS TAKE TIME. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SLAB--
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE HOLDIN' UP MY COMPANY'S PROJECT FOR A HUNK OF ROCK!
NOT JUST A ROCK! THE SLAB IS OF GREAT ANTIQUITY--
-- AND AS IMPORTANT IN RESOLVING ANCIENT MYSTERIES AS THE ROSETTA STONE WAS IN DECIPHERING EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHICS--
ITS RADIOACTIVITY IS JUST ONE MORE REASON TO--
AAAAH!
KATSU!
WHAT THE--

PULL!
NO! MY ARM!
HE'S ALMOST FREE--
AAIEE!
AGGGH!
WHAT IS THAT THING?
KILL IT!
THUNK
THUNK
DON'T JUST STAND THERE--
THUNK THUNK

PAPA, I HAD A NIGHTMARE...

PAPA?

IN THE WEEKS AFTER THE CONSTRUCTION SITE INCIDENT, FATHER BECAME WITHDRAWN...

HE'D SPEND WHOLE NIGHTS IN HIS STUDY, STARING AT HIS REPORTS AND SCROLLS AND CLIPPINGS, LIKE A SMALL BIRD **TRANSFIXED** BY THE HYPNOTIC MOVEMENTS OF AN APPROACHING SERPENT.

I HATED THOSE REPORTS.

I REMEMBER WANTING TO TEAR THEM APART--

Inter-departmental memo
From: Dr. I. Hikeda
To: M. Yoshiwara, Dept. of Ancient La
Re: Progress of translation.
It has been nearly four weeks since
sity was granted permission to examine
on . before transporting it here t
. No doubt that there are many
rned from the slab, but quite f
r considerable pressure from Ajax
ensure to move the slab so construct
esume.
Without evidence of real progress, i
ing harder for me to convince Ajax tha
should continue to hold up their cons
I understand that your daughter was
present at the regretable incident wi
known creature. If you would like see
off
the

--BELIEVING THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF THOSE OMENS MIGHT FREE MY FATHER FROM THE DOOM THEY PORTENDED.

ivity continues to increase. Though
still well below any danger levels, this as-
pect of the slab continues to baffle us.
Tests run to determine the make-up of the
rock have revealed no traces of Uranium or
any other known radioactive elements.
The theory we're working on now is that
the slab is somehow "channeling" the radio-
activity from an outside
The possibility of a
outside of Earth's atmos
same way as the tides
pull of the moon's grav
radioactivity could
celestial body.
much the same way as
y the pull of the
lab's radioactivit
nations of a

ientists stunned -
sistant killed by unknown creature
YO, Scientists investigating the "slab,"
bearing carvings apparently made
was settled that was unearthed by the

BUT THOUGH MY FATHER'S DOCUMENTS COULD **FORETELL** THE FUTURE, THEY COULD DO LITTLE TO **FORESTALL** IT...

KYUSHU, Ja... Resid... of a small fishing village near her... reported witnessing a mass migration of locusts. The huge clouds of insects were said to have stretched for miles, and at times were so dense that they nearly blotted out the sun. The sightings were verified by radar crews at several nearby air ports.

Fishermen and pearl divers said the first clusters of insects were spotted moving out to sea, into the South Pacific, shortly after ten a.m. local time. By noon, said witnesses, the swarms had become "clouds."

Thus far no explanation for the insects' unusual behavior has been found, though several scientists have suggested a change in weather patterns might be to blame.

Equally mystifying as the cause of the migration is the destination of the insects. As one bewildered witness said, "There's nov... for th...

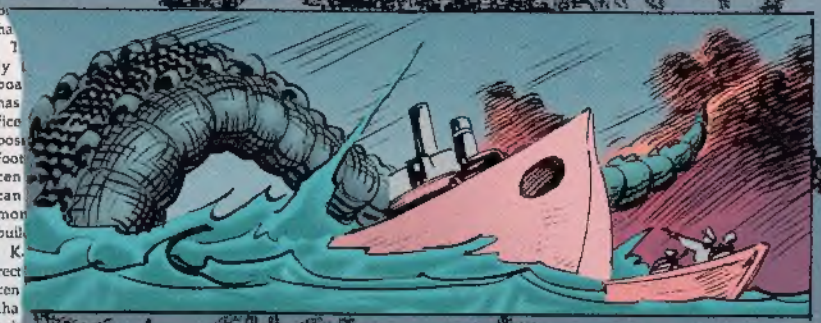
TAIPEI, ... passengers and crew ... an Am flight between Tokyo and Hong Kong told of a mid-air near collision with a huge "unidentified flying object" over the East China Sea after their plane was forced to make an emergency landing in Taipei.

One passenger described the UFO as "unbelievably huge," and several others, including two crew members, claimed the object, which was said to be traveling in the opposite direction of the plane, "stared" at the plane and its occupants with "gigantic, evil eyes."

No radar contact was made with the object, though the pilot said he heard a noise like rushing water as the object passed by the plane.

AKHALEV IL (Japan Ne...) Despite the claims of survivors from the Russian whaling ship *Vinnista* that a "sea monster" was responsible for the sinking of their vessel two days ago, the Soviet government today charged that a collision with a United States Navy submarine was the real cause of the disaster that left 23 crewmen dead or missing.

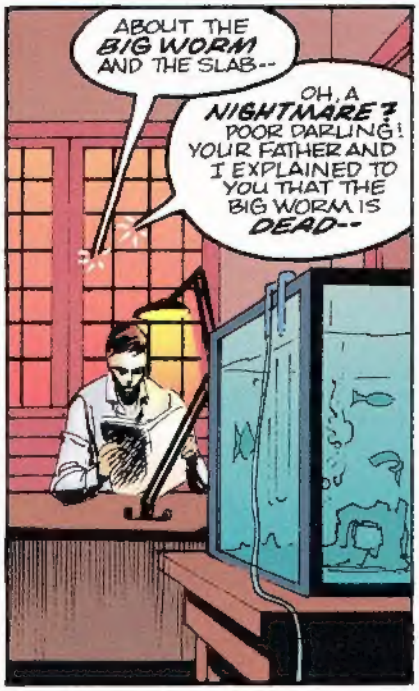
Yuri Kreshnev, captain of the ill-fated vessel appeared stunned by the announcement from his government, and stuck to his story of a "tremendous lashing tail or tentacle" that slammed into the vessel amidships, breaking it in two. His story was corraborated by two other survivors. The fourth survivor, however, agreed with the official statement, and condemned the Unites States for its "terrorist actions."



THE WORLD'S FATE WAS SEALED...

...AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THAT FATE RESTED ON MY FATHER'S SHOULDERS.
NORIKO!
I UNDERSTAND NOW THE WEIGHT MY FATHER STRUGGLED WITH AT THE TIME...

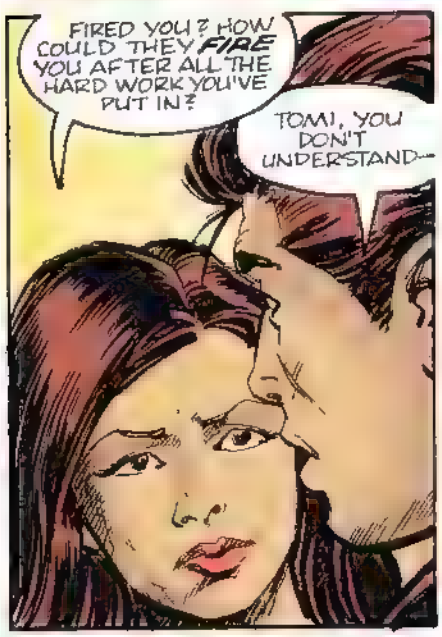
IT'S LATE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED, DEAR?
I HAD A BAD DREAM, MAMA.


ABOUT THE BIG WORM AND THE SLAB--
OH, A NIGHTMARE? POOR DARLING! YOUR FATHER AND I EXPLAINED TO YOU THAT THE BIG WORM IS DEAD--

"-- THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT. COME BACK TO BED..."
I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY MY FATHER LOOKED LIKE A DROWNING MAN WHO HAD JUST BEEN THROWN AN ANCHOR...

THE CALL...
...A ROAR IN THE SILENCE... A LIGHT IN THE DEPTHS...
...A FIRE IN HIS BONES HE COULD NOT IGNORE. AFTER A SLEEP OF CENTURIES, HE WAS AWAKE.

* THE MAIN ISLAND OF THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO

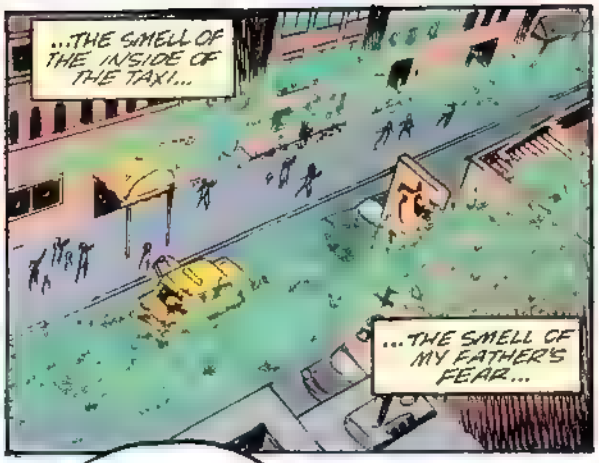


BEFORE HIM FLED THE SMALLER CREATURES OF THE SEA, MADE FEARFUL BY HIS STIRRING.

THEY DID NOT MATTER. THE STRANGE NEW TASTES IN THE DEEP DID NOT MATTER.

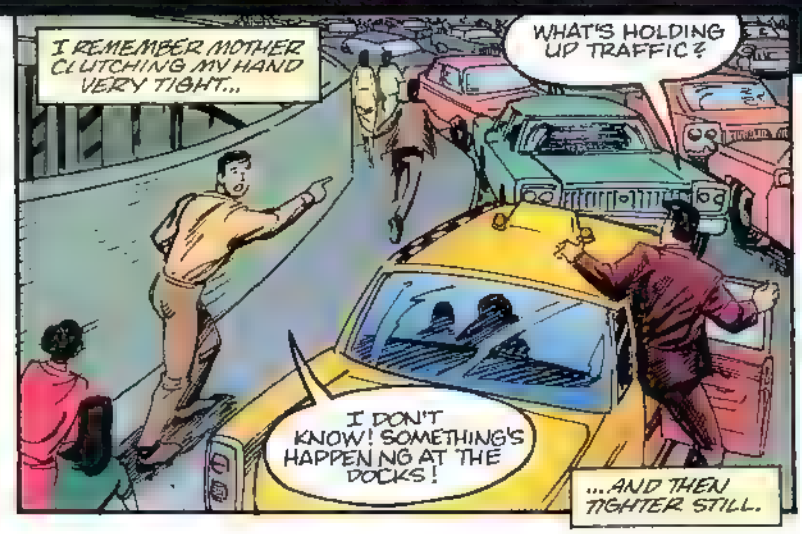
ALL THAT MATTERED WAS THE CALL.

I REMEMBER THAT AFTERNOON IN FRAGMENTS... THE MAD DASH FROM OUR APARTMENT BUILDING, THE AIR ALIVE WITH WINGED, MULTI-LEGGED BODIES.
MORIO! SLOW DOWN! WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?
TAXI!
...AND A SOUND LIKE DRIED LEAVES CRACKLING UNDERFOOT...

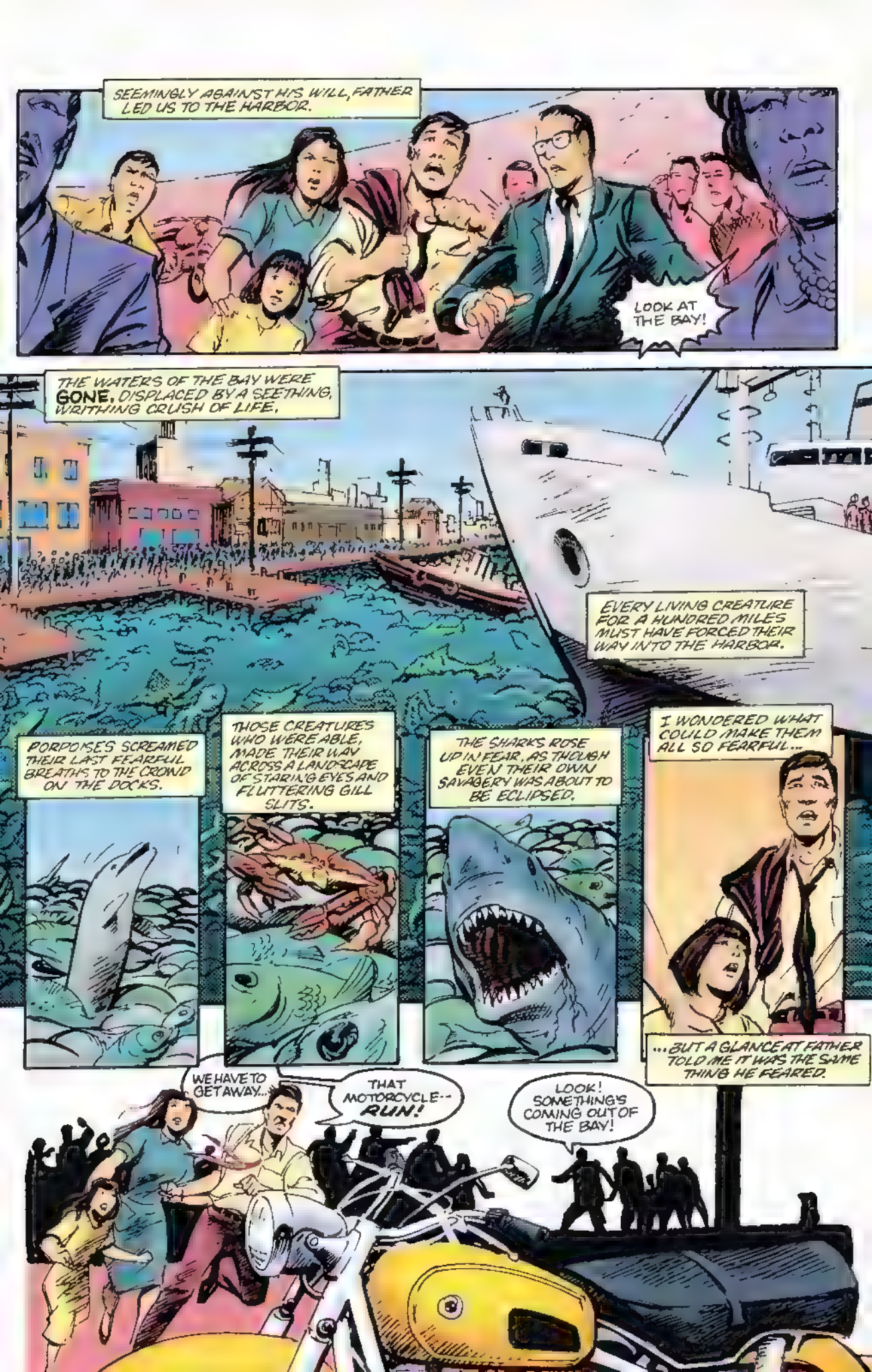

...THE SMELL OF THE INSIDE OF THE TAXI...
...THE SMELL OF MY FATHER'S FEAR...

TAKE US AWAY FROM TOKYO, AS FAST AS YOU CAN! ANYWHERE— JUST DRIVE!
...THE SOUND OF IT IN HIS VOICE...

THE CALL...


I REMEMBER MOTHER CLUTCHING MY HAND VERY TIGHT...
WHAT'S HOLDING UP TRAFFIC?
I DON'T KNOW! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING AT THE DOCKS!
...AND THEN TIGHTER STILL.

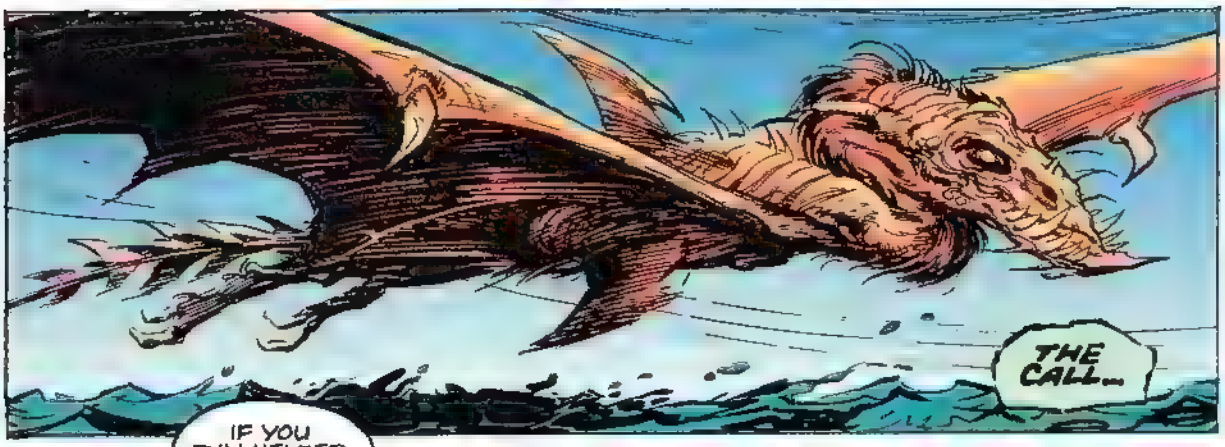
COME ON, WE MUST WALK.
I REMEMBER THE LOOK ON FATHER'S FACE -- THE SAME LOOK I HAD SEEN BEFORE... THE SERPENT WAS APPROACHING...


SEEMINGLY AGAINST HIS WILL, FATHER LED US TO THE HARBOR.
LOOK AT THE BAY!
THE WATERS OF THE BAY WERE GONE, DISPLACED BY A SEETHING, WRITHING CRUSH OF LIFE.
EVERY LIVING CREATURE FOR A HUNDRED MILES MUST HAVE FORCED THEIR WAY INTO THE HARBOR.
PORPOISES SCREAMED THEIR LAST FEARFUL BREATHS TO THE CROWD ON THE DOCKS.
THOSE CREATURES WHO WERE ABLE, MADE THEIR WAY ACROSS A LANDSCAPE OF STARING EYES AND FLUTTERING GILL SLITS.
THE SHARKS ROSE UP IN FEAR, AS THOUGH EVEN THEIR OWN SAVAGERY WAS ABOUT TO BE ECLIPSED.
I WONDERED WHAT COULD MAKE THEM ALL SO FEARFUL...
...BUT A GLANCE AT FATHER TOLD ME IT WAS THE SAME THING HE FEARED.
WE HAVE TO GET AWAY...
THAT MOTORCYCLE-- RUN!
LOOK! SOMETHING'S COMING OUT OF THE BAY!

THE TERROR ROSE FROM THE BAY...
...ITS EYES GLARED DOWN AT THE CROWD . AS BRIGHT AS FIRE... AS COLD AS DEATH.
KREEEEEE
ITS ROAR SPLIT THE SKY AND SHATTERED THE TOWERS OF GLASS.
BUT ABOVE THE ROAR I HEARD MY FATHER SHOUT.
MY FATHER GAVE THE TERROR A NAME...
GODZILLA!
THE AGE OF MONSTERS HAD BEGUN.

HE STARED AT THE UNFAMILIAR WORLD TO WHICH HE'D AWAKENED...
...A WORLD THE SCURRYING CREATURES AT HIS FEET HAD TRANSFORMED.
HE REMEMBERED THE WORLD HE HAD ONCE RULED...
...AND VOICED HIS DISPLEASURE AT THE CHANGE.
HE HAD AWAKENED IN AN AGE OF MONSTERS.
TOMI, NORIKO, HOLD TIGHT!
I HAVE TO GET TO THE CONSTRUCTION SITE!
ROARRRR

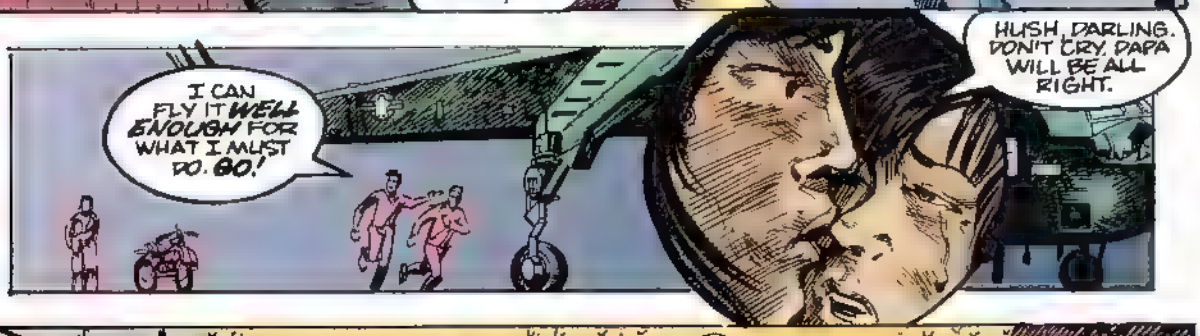
YOSHIWARA?
YOSHIWARA! WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE AND SMOKE FROM THE HARBOR?
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN WEEKS I SAW THE FEAR GO OUT OF MY FATHER'S EYES.
WHAT'S GOING ON?! IT'S THE VERY THING I WARNED YOU ABOUT!
THE MONSTERS HAVE AWAKENED--
GODZILLA IS HERE!
THE CALL... ITS SOURCE WAS CLOSE...
...VERY CLOSE.
STOP HELZER! YOU CAN'T RUN-- THERE IS WORK TO DO!

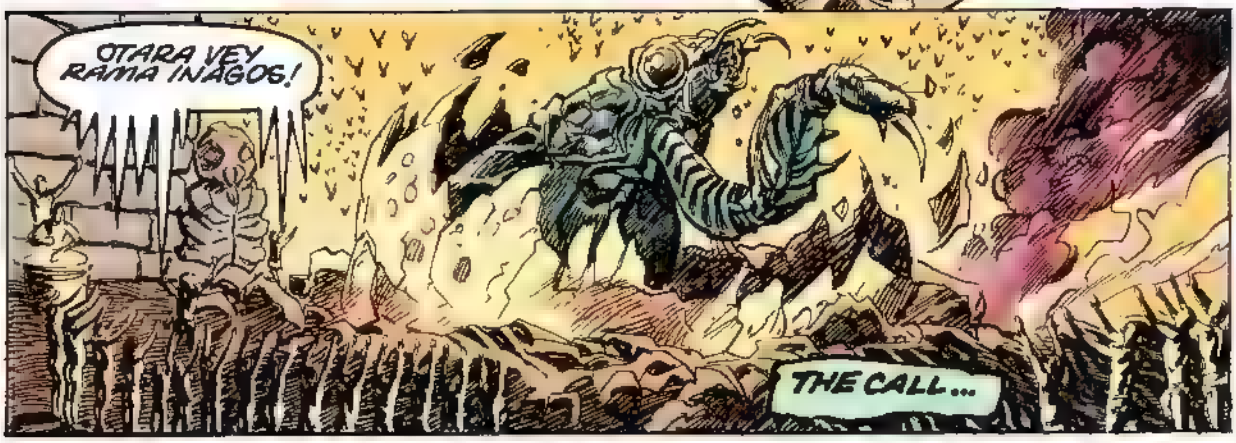

THE CALL...

IF YOU RUN, HELZER, THE CITY IS DOOMED.
BUT THERE'S NO TIME--

YOU HAVE TWO HELICOPTERS HERE I WILL USE ONE TO BUY YOU THE TIME YOU NEED.
BUT YOU MUST FLY THE SLAB OUT TO SEA AND DROP IT INTO THE JAPAN TRENCH.

TOMI... NORIKO... I LOVE YOU BOTH...
TOMI, TAKE CARE OF OUR DAUGHTER.
GOOD-BYE, TOMI. GOOD-BYE, NORIKO.
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FLYING ONE OF--
MORIO, NO!

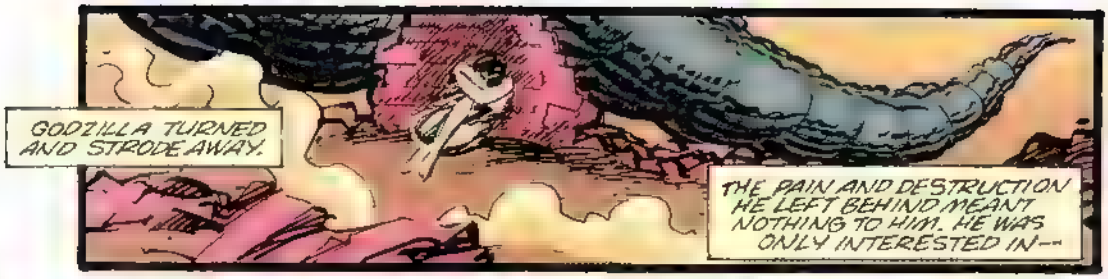

I CAN FLY IT WELL ENOUGH FOR WHAT I MUST DO. GO!
HUSH, DARLING. DON'T CRY. DAPA WILL BE ALL RIGHT.


OTARA VEY RAMA INAGOS!
THE CALL...

WHUP WHUP
THE BIRD HAD OVERCOME THE FEAR OF THE SERPENT.
WHUP WHUP
I HOPE THIS BABY CAN LIFT THE SLAB BY ITSELF!
NO! STAY AWAY FROM MY FAMILY!
THAT'S RIGHT, MONSTER, LOOK UP HERE!
I'M GOING TO SEND YOU BACK TO HELL!
BRAWWWNK!
THE CALL... SO CLOSE... BUT THE PAIN WAS CLOSER...

GREE-OOOM!
THE FIRE... (NOT HIS OWN!) ...BURNED HIM AND CLUNG TO HIM.
AND THE CALL...GREW FAINTER... DISTANT.

THE SCURRYING MONSTERS WOULD PAY.
RUN, NORIKO!
MAMA?
MAMA...



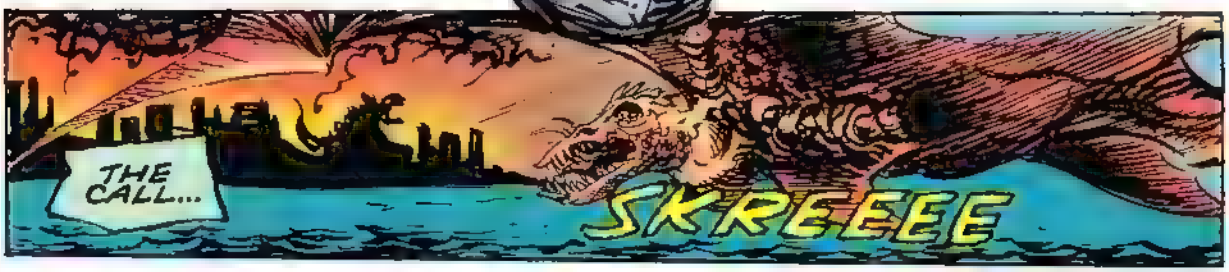
--THE CALL.

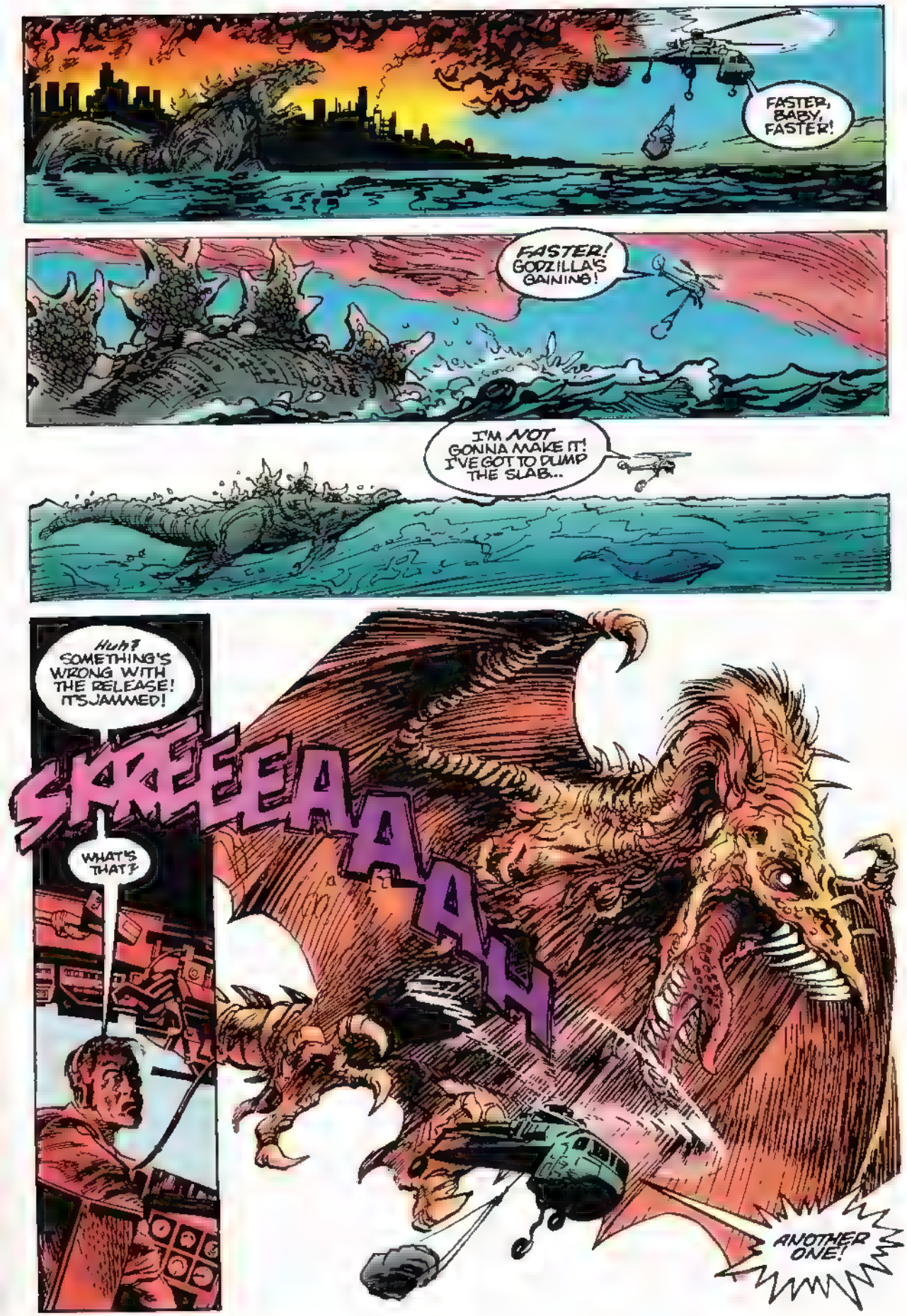
WHUP

WHUP

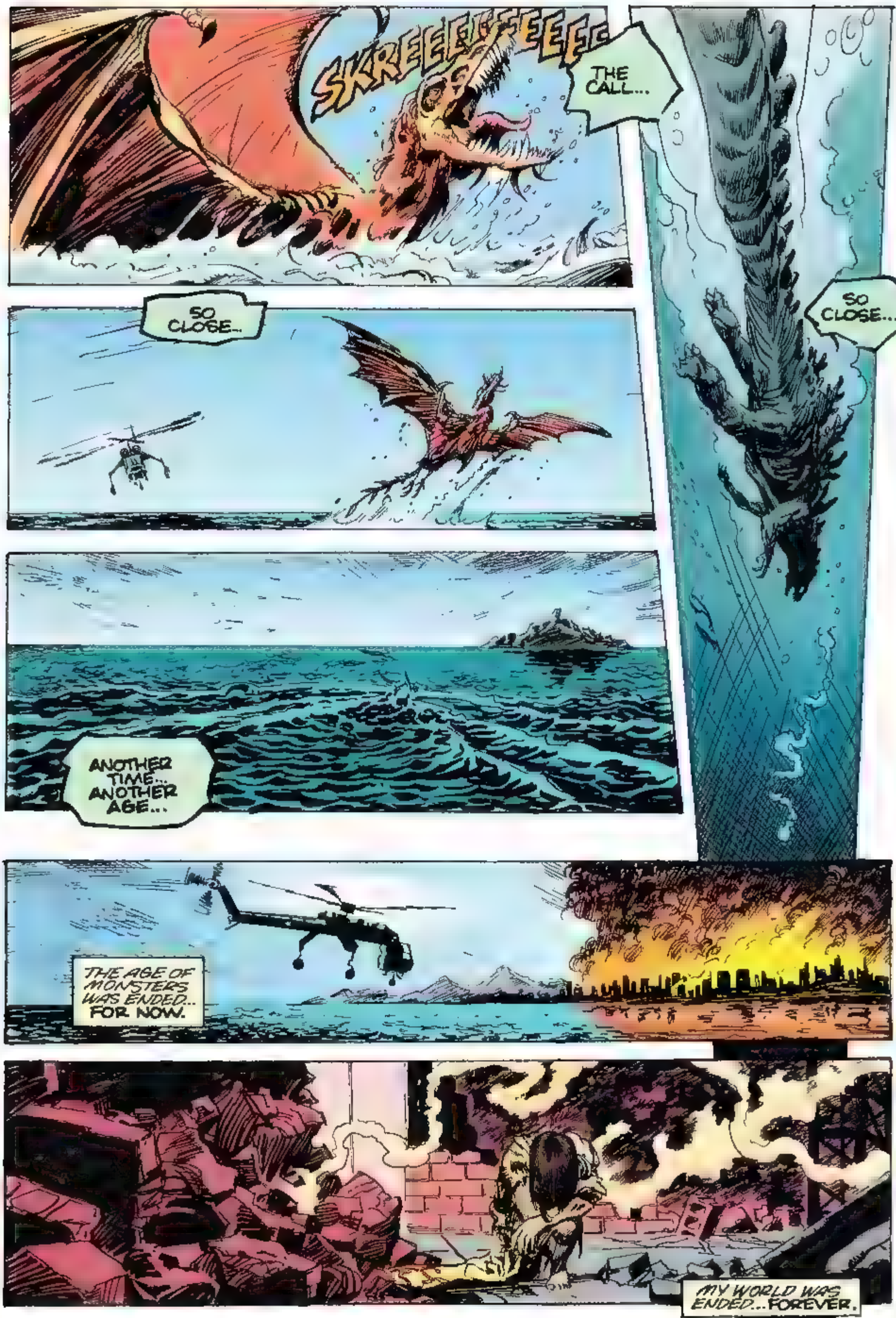
WHUP

COME ON, BABY!




FASTER, BABY, FASTER!
FASTER! GODZILLA'S GAINING!
I'M NOT GONNA MAKE IT! I'VE GOT TO DUMP THE SLAB...
Huh? SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE RELEASE! IT'S JAMMED!
WHAT'S THAT?
SKREEEAAAAH
ANOTHER ONE!

RELEASE, DAMN YOU! RELEASE!
THANK GOD!
SNOOK
SKREE
THE CALL!
THE CALL!

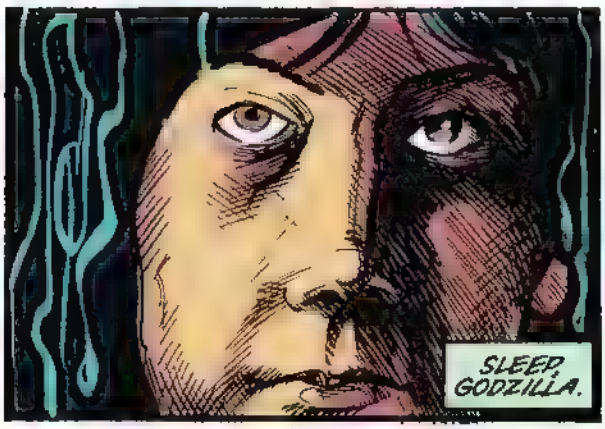

SKREEEEEEEEEE
THE CALL...
SO CLOSE...
SO CLOSE...
ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER AGE...
THE AGE OF MONSTERS WAS ENDED... FOR NOW.
MY WORLD WAS ENDED... FOREVER.

I LOST MY FATHER AND MOTHER THAT DAY. BUT I FOUND SOMETHING AS WELL...

...SOMETHING IT HAS TAKEN ME ALL THESE YEARS TO DECIPHER... TO UNDERSTAND.

ONE OF THE MONSTER'S SCALES...

A KEY... A KEY THAT WILL UNLOCK THE DOOR OF DEATH FOR GODZILLA.



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▸WHEN ROACH MOTELS FAIL,◂

TRY INTERGALACTIC WAR!

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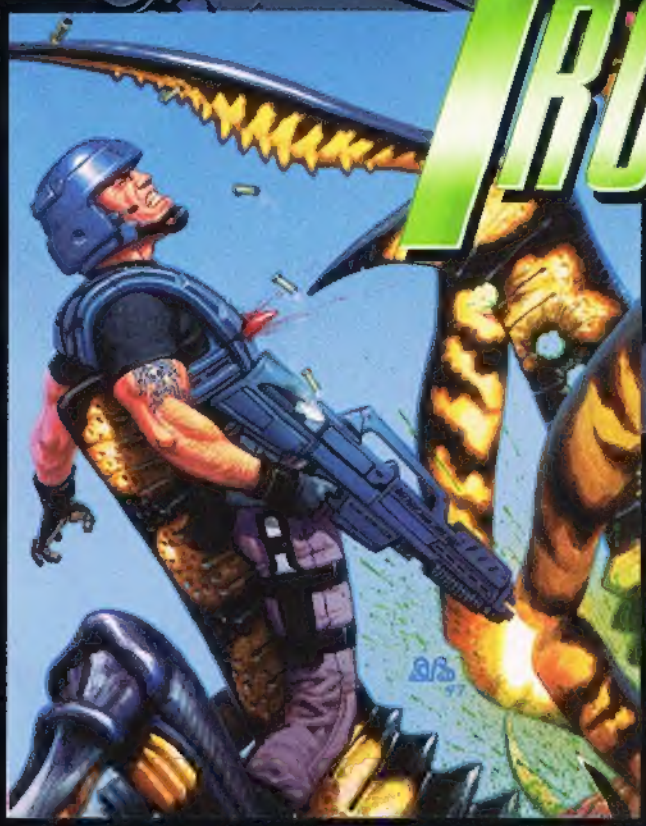

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VOLUME • ONE

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WINGING

YOUR WAY

IN JULY!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY

ARTHUR ADAMS,

RODOLFO DAMAGGIO,

STEVE CRESPO,

DOUG MAHNKE,

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BEGINNING AN ALL NEW ENCYCLOPEDIC GUIDE TO THE STAR WARS COMICS

DARK HORSE COMICS®

ASSISTANT EDITOR PROFILE: DAVE LAND

While attending last year's ComicCon International in San Diego, many Dark Horse editors had the chance to meet British comics artist David Lloyd for the very first time. Lloyd had recently been involved in a Dark Horse project, and was nice enough to set aside time for a signing. Pleasantries were exchanged and conversation engaged. After a while, a question was posed to Lloyd regarding what he thought were the things the comics industry needed to keep it alive and healthy in the coming years. "People like Dave Land!" he said. "Comics needs the kind of enthusiasm he has!"

It may be a good thing for comics, then, that this Dark Horse editor, Oregon native, and resident wise-ass didn't see a bright and shiny future in any of his pre-comics job stints. Dave's past "careers" include working in a video store for eight years, being a receptionist at an Oriental rug store, assembling video game joysticks for a company called Thrustmaster (?!), and for one day only, delivering flowers. For a while, he even flexed some academic muscle pursuing film production at the University of Southern California.

He was busy working for a local pager company when the opportunity to work in the fun-filled world of comics came a knockin'. It's not that Dave didn't like the unbridled excitement that the pager industry offered (heavens, no!). But, people who know him will tell you he's a bit of a gambler at heart. He made a break for Dark Horse and never looked back.

It wasn't long before he landed smack-dab in the middle of Dark Horse's indispensable nerve center, the editorial department. First he assumed the duties of assistant editor, then took on full editor chores on projects such as Jay Stephens' The Land of Nod *and* Aliens. *Recently, he made a major jump over to the top-selling* Star Wars *group of books, where he's working on the manga adaptation of the* Star Wars *Trilogy and an ultra-top secret project known only as* "Smellhound." *Dave's also working on another hush-hush, forthcoming project called* The Territory *that's sure to garner notice (you heard it here first).*

Otherwise, Dave's busy hanging out with his cat, Harris, eating corn dogs, assembling those cool little paper robots from Chris Ware's Acme Novelty Library, *watching* South Park, *and praying to the automotive gods that his orange '72 VW Bug can get him home just one more time.*

NAME: Dave Land

NICKNAMES: Lando (Wow, that took some imagination.), Cletus, "Big Fat," Funky Patty

FAVORITE COMICS: *Acme Novelty Library*, *Land of Nod*, and anything by Tony Millionaire or Dave Cooper.

FAVORITE BOOK: *Day of the Locust* by Nathaniel West (Read it to find out what Homer Simpson did before he was on TV!)

FAVORITE MOVIE THIS YEAR: *Margaret's Museum*

FAVORITE MUSIC: I have a Clash tape in my car that I can't stop listening to.

CAREER GOALS OR ASPIRATIONS: To reprint all eight volumes of *What's Michael?*.

CAREER HIGHLIGHT: Working with amazing creators like Jay Stephens and David Lloyd.

QUOTE: "Sorry."

THE JULY ADVISOR

ON SALE JULY 1

- ❑ Dark Horse Classics: Godzilla, King of the Monsters #1
- ❑ Dark Horse Presents #134
- ❑ Oh My Goddess: Fallen Angel (one-shot)
- ❑ Scatterbrain #2
- ❑ Sin City Dames #3 (Miho)
- ❑ Star Wars Handbook vol. 1: X-Wing Rogue Squadron
- ❑ Star Wars: X-Wing Rogue Squadron #31
- ❑ Starship Troopers (TPB)

ON SALE JULY 8

- ❑ Dark Horse Extra #2
- ❑ Drakuun #18
- ❑ Gunsmith Cats: Bad Trip #2
- ❑ Lost in Space #3
- ❑ Star Wars: A New Hope — Manga, vol. 1
- ❑ ZombieWorld: Winter's Dregs #3

ON SALE JULY 15

- ❑ Aliens: Wraith (one-shot)
- ❑ Decapitator #2
- ❑ The Two Faces of Tomorrow #12
- ❑ Usagi Yojimbo #22
- ❑ ZombieWorld: Champion of the Worms (TPB)

On Sale July 22

- ❑ Aliens vs. Predator: Eternal #2
- ❑ Blade of the Immortal #23
- ❑ Dead or Alive #4
- ❑ Madman/The Jam #1
- ❑ Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — Redemption #1
- ❑ 300 #3

ON SALE JULY 29

- ❑ American Splendour: Transatlantic Comics (one-shot)
- ❑ Legend of Mother Sarah: City of the Angels #9
- ❑ Curse of Dracula #1
- ❑ Tarzan/Carson of Venus #3
- ❑ Wizards of the Coast "Serra Angel" figure
- ❑ Sergio Aragonés' Boogeyman #2
- ❑ Star Wars: The Last Command #6

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